

WEST SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(SURVEY REPORT),

For the Year 1925.

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BARRISTER-AT-LAW.

GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS, ETC.

Figures in brackets throughout this report refer to corresponding figures for preceding years, as 1925 (24-23-22-21).

AREA.—Acres, 390,916. The County consists of two small Boroughs, four Urban and eight Rural Districts.

POPULATION.—(Estimated 1925) 110,010. Population for 1921 Census was 108,985, which figure included 9,043 children under five years of age, and 20,308 from five to fourteen.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1921), 27,350. Number of families or separate occupiers (1921) 27,570.

RATEABLE VALUE.—Net annual value £574,009. Reduced assessable value £446,140. Sum represented by a penny rate £1,858 18s. 4d.

STAFF.—One Chief Medical Officer and one Assistant; one Dental Surgeon and one Dental Attendant; one Superintendent of Health Visitors, three Health Visitors and thirty-nine part-time District Nurse Health Visitors; five Clerks. *County Sanatorium.*—Matron, one Nurse, Cook, Ward-maid and Gardener.

RAINFALL.—The total rainfall for 1925, 24.29 inches (29.04-26.66-22.68-11.98).

BIRTHS.—Number of registered births, 1,735 (1,791-1,979-2,039-2,254), viz., Urban Districts, 620 (650-735-747-812); Rural Districts, 1,115 (1,141-1,244-1,292-1,442) Birth Rate, 15.7 (16.2-18.04-18.6-20.6).

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACTS, 1907 & 1915.—Number of notifications received, 1,700 (1,823-1,941-2,064-2,192). Number of visits paid by Health Visitors and District Nurses, 1,664 (1,656-1,779-2,040-2,116); number of revisits, 18,119 (17,012-15,744-17,423-9,845).

Neglects to Notify.—Total number 60 (58-103-85-94), viz., Hadleigh 1 (Nil-1-2-8); Haverhill 1 (Nil-Nil-1-2); Newmarket 5 (6-5-2-3); Bury St. Edmund's 1 (6-6-4-Nil); Sudbury 8 (9-5-5-4); Brandon 6 (7-22-12-7); Clare Nil (3-Nil-2-10); Cosford 9 (6-13-5-14); Melford 6 (3-16-10-9); Mildenhall 4 (2-5-4-6); Moulton Nil (— — — 1); Thedwastre 10 (11-11-26-16); Thingoe 9 (5-19-12-14).

Still Births.—Total number, 65 (43-39-75-72).

The discrepancy between the notified and registered births is due to the fact that the periods do not correspond, as births must be notified within thirty-six hours, but need not be registered until six weeks.

DEATHS.—Number of deaths, 1,291 (1,322-1,268-1,498-1,361), viz., Urban Districts 504 (480-489-571-524), Rural Districts 787 (842-779-927-837). Death Rate, 11.7 (12.03-11.5-13.6-12.4).

INFANT MORTALITY.—Total number of deaths under 1 year, 89 (80-96-113-128). Rate, 51.2 (44.6-48.5-55.4-56.7).

WORK OF CORONERS, 1925-26.—*Borough of Bury St. Edmund's:* Fees to Coroner, £23 2s.; Number of Inquests, 11; Number of Reports to Coroner, without Inquest, 8; Cost of Inquests, £21 7s. 6d.; Number of Post-mortem Examinations, 3. *Rest of County:* Fees or Salary to Coroners, £200 4s.; number of Inquests, 45; Number of Reports to Coroners, without Inquest, 33; Cost of Inquests, £112 8s. 2d.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.—Total number of deaths, 35 (25-36-96), viz., Diphtheria, Nil (Nil-5-7); Influenza, 26 (24-23-68); Scarlet Fever, 3 (Nil-1-2); Whooping Cough, 6 (1-7-19).

CANCER.—Total number of deaths, 167 (180-184-182-170); rate per thousand, 1.5 (1.6-1.6-1.6-1.5).

Deaths from the following diseases were notified to the County Medical Department by Local Registrars at a cost of 6d. for each notification: Various forms Tuberculosis 74 (83), Bronchitis 28 (13), Pneumonia 46 (40), Cancer 14 (16), Premature Birth 12 (18), Debility from Birth 9 (3), Enteritis Nil (2), Gastro-Enteritis Nil (6), Marasmus Nil (1), Convulsions 4 (Nil), Food Poisoning 1 (Nil), Whooping Cough 1 (Nil), Meningitis 2 (Nil), Cerebral Meningitis 1 (Nil), Gastritis 2 (Nil), other Diseases 57 (53). Total 251 (235). Total cost £6 5s. 6d. (£5 17s. 6d.).

TUBERCULOSIS.

(a) *New Cases Reported during 1925.*

Age periods.	PULMONARY.		NON-PULMONARY.	
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.
0—1	—	—	2	—
1—5	2	1	5	1
5—10	1	3	2	2
10—15	2	5	4	—
15—20	3	4	1	2
20—25	10	10	2	—
25—35	15	5	1	—
35—45	8	6	3	—
45—55	8	4	2	—
55—65	8	2	—	—
65 and upwards ...	2	1	—	—
Totals	59 (56)	41 (52)	22 (18)	5 (17)

Number of notified cases on Register June 30th, 1926, 615.

(b) *Deaths.*

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	70 (80-97-88-118-89)
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	14 (14-25-22-32-21)
Total	84 (94-122-110-150-110)

(c) *Rates.*—76 (·85-1·1-1·004-0·99-1·3).(d) *Sanatorium.*—Number of beds 20, females 4, males 16 (two of the latter are transferable).

(e) *Admissions and Discharges.*—Number of admissions during 1925, 56 (60-60-74-73); number of discharges, 48 (64-61-73-72); total number of days spent by patients in the Sanatorium, 5,696 (5,942-6,394-5,876-6,302); average number of days for each patient, 102 (99-106-68-86).

(f) *Condition of Patients discharged from Sanatorium during year.*—Of the 48 patients discharged from the County Sanatorium during the year, 8 had greatly improved on discharge, 33 showed signs of improvement, 3 had become worse, and 4 were in the Institution too short a time for a definite report.

(g) *Cost of Sanatorium* for the year ended 31st March, 1926, £1,663 (£1,560-£1,650-£1,722-£2,069), including salaries and wages £314 (£305-£296-£292-£333); rates, taxes and insurances £23 (£25-£20-£24-£24); provisions, £681 (£632-£668-£784-£879); fuel and light, £104 (£105-£113-£119-£66); drugs and appliances, £49 (£67-£91-£80-£141); laundry, hardware, linen, crockery and other establishment expenses, £274 (£218-£245-£214-£260); repairs, alterations, etc., £44 (£81-£49-£108-£254); gardener's wages, £91 (£91-£91-£101-£112); furniture and equipment, £63 (£36-£77); superannuation, employers' contributions, £20. Average cost per patient per week at Sanatorium, £2 0s. 10d.

(h) *Domiciliary and Dispensary Treatment.*—Number of visits by T.O.'s to Tuberculous patients 167 (221-159-476-411); total number of attendances at Shire Hall Dispensary during the year (T.B.) 271 (433-551); number of visits paid by Health Visitors to Tuberculous patients 1,762 (830-891-675-535).

(i) *Cost of Tuberculosis Scheme.*—Year ended March 31st, 1926, £2,584 (£2,861-£3,137-£3,127-£3,059). Amount received for Government Grant and for treatment of Ex-Service men, £1,879 (£2,200-£2,455-£2,180-£2,581). Other receipts, £66 (£70-£177-£99-£38).

The C.M.O. and Assistant C.M.O. act as Tuberculosis Officers. One Dispensary is provided at Bury St. Edmund's, where patients attend twice weekly. Weekly notifications of cases of Tuberculosis are received from Local Sanitary Authorities, and all patients are visited by the County Health Visitors, and on request, or if it appears otherwise desirable, by the T.B.O.'s also. In the case of insured persons, quarterly reports are received at the Office on the condition of patients and are discussed with Practitioners in attendance. The names of children in contact with Tuberculosis attending Elementary Schools are sent to Head Teachers, who are asked to present all such children at each visit of the S.M.O. to the Schools. Sputum is examined at the County Laboratory, and very considerable attention is paid to securing temperature records in doubtful cases, which assists diagnosis to a considerable extent.

The services of the Dental Surgeon are available for patients suffering from Tuberculosis, and she attends regularly at the County Sanatorium. Extra nourishment is not, as a rule, provided for tuberculous patients unless it is likely to assist in their recovery.

Cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis are treated in General Hospitals, some of them being seen by the Orthopædic Specialist at the West Suffolk General Hospital. There is no after care committee, but any case reported as needing it by Health Visitors receives, as far as possible, proper assistance. The prevailing industry of the County being agriculture, it does not predispose to the prevalence of this disease.

No special methods have been adopted or proposed for the prevention of Tuberculosis other than by attention to general hygiene.

A very special need of the County, however, is for the provision of institutional treatment for advanced cases of Tuberculosis. At present assistance is obtained from Papworth Tuberculosis Colony, Cambridgeshire, and the Huntingdonshire Sanatorium, but owing to the inaccessibility of these places and the distances from patients' homes, patients are reluctant to accept their services. It is hoped that very soon the treatment of the sick at present undertaken by Boards of Guardians will be transferred to County Councils, and this will set at liberty some good buildings in the vicinity which, under new conditions might be acceptable for these patients. As showing what happens in the present state of affairs, a patient died during 1926, and it was ascertained that her sister, a domestic servant working in London, was induced to come back to Bury St. Edmund's to nurse her; shortly afterwards she too fell a victim to the disease. Had the patient received institutional treatment to the end this might have been avoided.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following notifications of Notifiable Diseases were received from Medical Officers of Health: Chickenpox, 37 (77-66-17); Diphtheria, 28 (15-44-53); Encephalitis Lethargica, 3 (3-nil-4); Enteric Fever, 4 (6-4-12); Erysipelas, 14 (19-17-32); Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 4 (1-4-9); Poliomyelitis, 2 (1-4-2); Pneumonia, 56 (35-19-52); Puerperal Fever, 1 (4-4-6); Scarlet Fever, 247 (98-57-96); Anthrax, 1 (nil-1-nil); Cerebro-spinal Fever, 1 (1-1-nil); Para-typhoid, nil (nil-1-nil); *Tuberculosis*, 136 (126-144-165); Pulmonary, 109 (99-113-165); other, 27 (27-31-36).

Fifty-six (70-59-89-27) Schools were closed on account of infectious disease during the year.

One hundred and three certificates of low attendance were issued for 28 Schools as a result of the revised regulations of the Board of Education which were adopted during the year; two Schools only being closed after the commencement of the new regulations. The following extracts explain the present situation with regard to School closure:—

Section 2 of Circular 1337 of Board of Education, 29-7-24:

“ In future, therefore, the Board will not regard the prevalence of an epidemic of disease as a reasonable ground for the closure of a school by the voluntary action of the Local Education Authority, save in exceptional circumstances when the School Medical Officer advises or approves such closure on purely medical grounds.”

Section 1a of Circular 1348 of 7-1-25:—

“When the average attendance of a school or department for any week has fallen below 60 % of the number of children on the registers, and the Local Education Authority are satisfied by a certificate from the School Medical Officer that the fall in the attendance to so low a percentage may reasonably be attributed to the prevalence of epidemic illness in the district, the meetings and attendances for that week need not be reckoned in calculating the average attendance for the purpose of the Board's grant.”

4,327 (3,622-2,089-3258-1,542-2,986) notifications were received from Head Teachers in respect of children absent or excluded from School on account of infectious disease.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

HADLEIGH U.D.—Contract with the County Borough of Ipswich for the reception of cases of infectious disease in their Borough Isolation Hospital.

HAVERHILL U.D.—Infectious Disease Hospital—26 beds.

NEWMARKET U.D.—Isolation Hospital, under management of Newmarket Rural and Moulton District Councils, which takes cases from Urban District on payment of an annual rental sum and maintenance charges, if accommodation available. During 1925 the accommodation was insufficient and assistance was sought from Cambridge Borough Hospital.

BURY ST. EDMUND'S BOROUGH.—Hospital of 20 beds with facilities for the separation of Enteric and Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria.

SUDBURY U.D.—Hospital of 16 beds, situated in Borough, used for Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria or Erysipelas, as occasion arises.

CLARE R.D.—No provision for isolation of cases of infectious disease. The small Hospital of 4 beds belonging to the Clare and Bumpstead Rural Districts, and primarily intended for the reception of cases of Small-pox, has fallen into such a state of disrepair that it is not capable of being used if required.

COSFORD R.D.—Arrangements made with the Bosmere and Claydon R.D.C. for the reception of cases of infectious disease to their Hospital at Barham.

MELFORD R.D.—No hospital in area. Cases sometimes sent to Colchester.

MOULTON R.D.—Combined with Newmarket Rural and Urban Districts.

THEDWASTRE R.D.—Combined with Stowmarket Urban and East Stow Rural. Hospital of 22 beds, managed by a Joint Board. A new isolation block (12 beds) was erected during 1924, and occupied during 1925.

No provision is made for the Urban District of Glemsford and Rural Districts of Brandon, Clare, Mildenhall and Thingoe.

SMALL-POX ACCOMMODATION.—A small Hospital of 16 beds is maintained by the County Council at Great Barton and the Borough of Bury St. Edmund's have a Hospital on the southern boundary of the town, consisting of huts, specially erected for the purpose in 1902. Both Hospitals are capable of being brought into use within a few hours.

LABORATORY.

The Laboratory is under the supervision of the County Medical Officers, who examine Nose and Throat Swabs, Sputa, Hairs for Ringworm, and occasional samples of water. The following work was done by them during the year:—Nose and Throat Swabs, 159 (220-293-194-418); Sputa, 138 (129-130-147-199); Hairs for Ringworm, 27 (41-101-73-38); Water Analysis, 7. The value of these examinations as charged in other Laboratories charging the moderate fee of 2/6 per specimen, would have amounted to £41 7s. 6d. (£48 15s. - £65 10s. - £51 15s. - £94 7s. 6d.). The advantage of such examinations being made in the County is that the medical department is fully aware of the type of disease prevalent.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The Council provide a Clinic at Bury St. Edmund's under the direction of the County Medical Officers, which is held on Wednesday and Saturday mornings. Patients also receive treatment at Centres in adjoining Counties, such as Norwich, Cambridge, Ipswich and Colchester.

The Clinic appears to be well known throughout the County, and at its inception was well advertised at the different railway stations. The fullest co-operation exists between medical men and the Clinic, and during 1925 mercury and arsenic preparations were supplied to a practitioner for use for his patients. No facilities are available for irrigation except at the Clinic. No proceedings have been taken against unqualified practice under the Venereal Disease Act, 1917.

Specimens of blood for Wassermann re-action are sent for examination to St. Thomas's Hospital.

During 1925, 38 (51) West Suffolk new patients were treated: 28 (32) at the Bury St. Edmund's Clinic, 11 (7) suffering from Syphilis; 8 (7) Gonorrhœa; 9 (18) Conditions other than Venereal. Cambridge Hospital, 9 (16); Syphilis, 2 (3); Gonorrhœa, 5 (8); Conditions other than Venereal, 2 (5). Ipswich Hospital, 1 (3); Syphilis, nil (1); Gonorrhœa, nil (1); Conditions other than Venereal, 1 (1).

Total number of attendances made during 1925:—Bury St. Edmund's, 368 (281); Cambridge, 209 (189); Ipswich, 76 (130).

Number of in-patient days, 1925:—Bury St. Edmund's, nil; Cambridge, 121 (201); Ipswich, nil.

Number of doses of Salvarsan Substitute given:—Bury St. Edmund's, 57 (58); Cambridge, 59 (133); Ipswich, 36 (60).

COST OF V.D. SCHEME FOR 1925-26: Bury St. Edmund's, £135 (£153-£142); Cambridge, £148 (£204-£129); Ipswich, £18 (£35-£124, 2 years); total, £301 (£392-£395).

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1875 to 1890.

The Police are sampling officers, and the cost of the administration of these Acts in the County for the year 1925-26 was £39 6s. 2d. (£40 5s. 7d.-£42 9s. 9d.-£50 11s. 2d.), including: Expenses of Superintendents of Police, taking samples, £3 6s. 2d. (£3 10s. 7d.-£4 4s. 9d.-£4 16s. 2d.); County Analyst Retaining Fee, £10 10s. (£10 10s.-£10 10s.-£10 10s.); ditto, Analysis of Samples, £25 10s. (£26 5s.-£27 15s.-£35 5s.); Legal Expenses, nil (nil-nil).

The Annual Return of the Chief Constable showed that during the year 1925, 34 samples had been taken—New Milk 28, Butter 4, and Lard 2; 32 were found to be genuine and 2 of Milk to be adulterated. Proceedings were taken in the 2 cases—fines of £2 10s 0d. and £1 were imposed.

Bury St. Edmund's is a separate Authority for the purpose of the administration of these Acts; 35 samples were examined during the year—Milk 18, Butter 4, Cream 3, Margarine 2, Vinegar 1, Lard 2, Condensed Full Cream Milk 1, Coffee 2, Apples (informal sample) 2. Two only of Milk were found to be adulterated, and the Apples contained arsenic to the extent of 1/64 grain per lb.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Four maternity beds are provided at the West Suffolk General Hospital. The services of the Orthopædic Specialist are available for children under five years of age at the same Institution, through a Scheme arranged by the West Suffolk General Hospital and the County Council.

Extra nourishment has not been provided for lying-in women, but milk has been allowed in a few cases where destitution appeared to be of a temporary measure and the applicants would not be likely to apply for out-door relief.

Patients suffering from diseases in pregnancy may attend the Clinics, but very few avail themselves of this privilege. Midwives are expected to see all prospective patients during pregnancy with a view to dealing with conditions which might give rise to trouble at the time of birth. The chief need is for the provision of the services of a Specialist in women's diseases, to whom difficult cases could be referred, and considering the unprecedented success of the two Special Departments, namely, Orthopædic and Nose and Throat, which have been set up by the public spirit of the West Suffolk General Hospital Committee and medical staff, the provision of such a department might with advantage be seriously considered.

Considering the fall in birth-rate, every possible effort should be directed to providing the very best possible assistance for women in child-birth, and it is to be regretted that the record of damage done to women at this period does not appear to be lessened to anything like the same extent as the infant mortality during the past forty years. Especially considering most villages have now their midwife, such a scheme would allow of any woman coming within the purview of a Rural Practitioner or Midwife, receiving the very highest possible skill in pregnancy, child-birth or other diseases peculiar to women.

The cost of Maternity Scheme for year ended March 31st, 1926, £2,758 (£2,703-£2,381-£2,165), including: Medical Staff, £80 (£70-£80-£80); Health Visitors' Salaries, £307 (£426-£545-£501); Travelling Expenses, £73 (£111-£117-£144); Nursing Association Grants and Fees, £1,041 (£1,000-£780-£678); other expenses, £870 (£848-£605-£483); Medical Fees, £174 (£133-£139-£200); Orthopædic Treatment, £213 (£115-£115-£79).

Staff.—One County Superintendent of Nurses, 3 whole-time Health Visitors, and 39 District Nurse part-time Health Visitors.

Midwives.—Notifications of intention to practice received, 87 (84-48-57); cases attended by Midwife as Midwife, 751 (848-853-886-835); as Monthly Nurse, 282 (353-328-294-374); Doctor sent for in respect of mother, 106 (110-133-145-79); in respect of child, 26 (13-17-35-20); Deaths of mother, 3 (4-3-7-3); of child, 33 (15-27-20-26).

Total amount of Doctors' Fees, £174 (£133-£139-£200); amount recovered by the end of the year, £41 17s. 9d. (£59 5s.-£54 5s.-£87 1s.). (The periods during which the fees were earned and recovered do not correspond).

Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.—Infant Clinics are held at Bures, Bury St. Edmund's, Hadleigh, Newmarket, Exning, Sudbury and Haverhill.

Grants to Districts.—Grants amounting to £1,028 8s. 6d. were paid by the County Council to District Nursing Committees during the financial year 1925-26.

New Nursing Districts.—A new Nursing District has been formed in the County during the year at Stanton, including the village of Bardwell.

BOARDS OF GUARDIANS.

There are eight Poor Law Unions dealing with West Suffolk, and the total net expenditure for 1923-24 was £127,693 for these Unions, dealing with a population of 110,010 in county and 49,882 out of county.

Bury St. Edmund's is the only Union with a Workhouse dealing entirely with population in the County. It contains 178 beds in Workhouse, 58 of which are usually occupied, and 122 in Infirmary, all of which are usually occupied. Trained nurses employed 4, untrained 8, number of lying-in cases received, 1925, 5.

Risbridge, Sudbury and Newmarket with total populations of 69,305 (in County 44,063, out County 25,242) have Workhouses inside the County. They contain 597 beds in Workhouses and 302 in Infirmary, of which 156 and 250 respectively are usually occupied. Trained nurses employed 4, untrained 17; number of lying-in cases received, 1925, 16. Risbridge receives inmates from Halstead Union, in Essex.

Cosford and Mildenhall have no Workhouses. *Cosford* arrange with Samford Guardians for reception of inmates to their Institution at Tattingstone. *Mildenhall* inmates boarded out with Newmarket Union.

Stow, dealing with a total population of 19,065 (in County 8,492, out County 10,573), has a Workhouse at Stowmarket, in East Suffolk

Thetford, dealing with a total population of 19,741 (in County 5,674, out County 14,067), has a Workhouse outside the County.

Total amount expended on Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages for the different Unions, 1923-24, £538; and on Vaccination, £756. Total number of children in Institutions, 154; total number boarded out, 161.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION AND HOUSING.

DISTRICT.				Total Inspections (Sanitary).	House Inspections.	Informal Notices (Housing).	Statutory Notices (Housing).	Closing Orders.	Houses Closed.	New Houses Erected
Bury St. Edmund's	...	...	...	3326	291	52	177	—	—	64
Glemsford	...	...	...	180	20	3	—	—	—	2
Hadleigh	...	...	...	508	54	46	3	—	1	48 (5 yrs)
Haverhill	...	...	...	836	95	61	5	—	—	—
Newmarket	...	...	...	1808	647	5	82	3	—	22 (since 1923)
Sudbury	...	...	...	980	151	2	186	—	—	3
Brandon	...	...	...	1120	28	—	—	—	—	10
Clare	...	...	...	1705	231	54	—	—	—	6
Cosford	...	...	...	992	229	37	—	1	—	9
Melford	...	...	...	2360	1360	26	—	2	—	11
Mildenhall	...	...	...	364	327	not	stated			—
Moulton	...	...	...	212	150	3	2	—	—	—
Thedwastre	...	...	...	300	300	2	49	—	4	5
Thingoe	...	...	...	1396	228	74	—	—	—	14

BLIND PERSONS ACT, 1920.

The total number of cases on the visiting lists of the Health Visitors is 92. These persons are visited twice a year. The age groups of the blind persons in the County are as follows:—

Age Period. 0—5			Age Period. 5—16			Age Period. 16—21			Age Period. 21—30			Age Period. 30—40		
M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
—	—	—	4	3	7	—	2	2	1	1	2	9	5	14

Age Period. 40—50			Age Period. 50—60			Age Period. 60—70			Age Period. Over 70			Age Unknown			TOTAL.		
M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
11	10	21	10	5	15	9	13	22	11	11	22	2	—	2	57	50	107

The following represents the number of blind persons in the County engaged in remunerative occupations:—Basket and Cane workers 7, Boot Repairers 1, Hawkers 2, Knitters 4, Mat Makers 1, Musicians and Music Teachers and Piano Tuners 4, Miscellaneous 4; total 23.

Eight blind persons are dealt with as Home Workers by the East Suffolk and Ipswich Association for the Blind.

VOLUNTARY MEDICAL CHARITY.—HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

West Suffolk General Hospital, Bury St. Edmund's.—Established 1825. Number of beds, 100. Patients treated 1925, in-patients (admitted during the year) 1,304 (1,063-973-802-909), new out-patients 3,213 (2,806-2,390-1,786-2,100). Cost of administration £13,825 8s. 7d. (£12,772 10s. 9d.-£10,252 18s. 6d.-£9,264 14s. 1d.).

St. Leonard's Hospital, Sudbury.—Founded 1867. Number of beds, 20. Number of admissions during the year, 238 (201). Cost of administration, £2,119 1s. 1d. (£1,906 19s. 5½d.-£1,735 0s. 8½d.-£1,556 19s. 2d.).

Mildenhall Cottage Hospital.—Established 1868. Number of beds, 8. Cost of Administration, £354 13s. 6d. (£351 15s. 2d.-£354 18s. 8d.-£350 5s. 6d.).

From returns published in 1925 by the Voluntary Hospitals Commission, recording for Suffolk a population of 399,988, it is shown that there were 541 beds available in eleven Hospitals, and that there was a total of 185 names on the waiting lists of three of these Hospitals. A suggestion was made that 145 additional beds were required for two of these Institutions. Use is, however, made of Hospitals in Essex, Cambridge and Norfolk.

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE ACT.

Approximate number of insured persons in the County, 40,356. Number of Medical Practitioners on the Panel, 66. Cost of (a) Treatment £17,267 3s., (b) Drugs and Appliances £4,473 2s. 8d., (c) Mileage £3,161.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Districts of Newmarket, Bury St. Edmund's, Glemsford, Haverhill, Sudbury and Brandon (town) are provided with a piped service supplied by the Local Authorities. Most of the other supply in the County is obtained from shallow wells, and in a few instances from ponds.

Hadleigh Urban District provides pumps and standpipes from boreholes and wells.

An attempt is likely to be made in future to take water from the river Stour for the use of residents in the South of Essex and greater London areas.

Complaints have been made as the pollution of the river Lark by effluent from the Beet Sugar Factory at Bury St. Edmund's, and of the river Stour by gas washings from the Gas Works at Long Melford. The County Council is taking steps to deal with these matters.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Sewage disposal systems are provided for the Boroughs of Bury St. Edmund's and Sudbury and for the Urban Districts of Newmarket and Haverhill. No schemes are provided for the Urban District of Hadleigh or Glemsford or the towns of Brandon and Mildenhall.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Water closets are provided in the Urban Districts where water carriage systems exist. Unfortunately, many water closets are without an adequate flushing apparatus, and there is a good deal of use of these conveniences in common, which is most undesirable.

SCAVENGING.

Organised systems are in existence in the Boroughs and Urban Districts and a few of the larger villages, but this work could be materially extended. During 1925 the Thingoe Rural District Council proposed a scheme for Ixworth, but owing to the strong opposition made by that parish, it was abandoned.

CONCLUSION.

The death rate for the year is smaller than usual; the birth rate also has fallen very seriously. This may be due to some extent to the depopulation of this rural area, which continued in the last intercensal period as an annual average loss of about 780 persons, equal to the wiping out of a large village like Bures every years. This is a very serious matter, as the responsibilities of the Empire call for a strengthening of the British stock by a proper proportion of births in a healthy rural population. Every effort, therefore, should be directed to securing for women at childbirth, etc., the best possible assistance. The increase in the number of midwives and other activities is creditable. The orthopædic scheme is yielding good results. Building bye-laws are needed in many of the districts, and it would be better if back additions, causing a lack of sun and air in living rooms, were avoided in new houses. Owing to the uncertainty of the transfer of the functions of the Guardians to other authorities, it is impossible to effect alterations for the treatment in Institutions of Tuberculosis and Infectious Diseases.

We are slowly learning that improved health is due to various factors—transport, education, voluntary charity, poor relief, all have their place. The small rural area is the most difficult unit to administer economically and efficiently, and the best results can only be obtained by those dealing with these questions realising the importance of the work they are doing for the community, and the necessity for co-ordination and co-operation wherever possible.

POPULATION, DEATH RATE, BIRTH RATE, INFANT MORTALITY, AND DEATHS CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO DISEASES.

DISTRICT.	Population as estimated by R.G. for 1925.	No of Births,	Birth Rate,	Illegitimate Births.	No of Deaths,	Death Rate,	Deaths under 1 year.	Deaths under 1 year per 1000 Births.	Measles.	Erythralitis Lethargica.	Whooping Cough.	Scarlet Fever.	Influenza.	Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis).	Other Tubercular Diseases.	Diabetes.	Cancer, Malignant Disease.	Rheumatic Fever.	Cerebral Hæmorrhage.	Organic Heart Disease.	Bronchitis.	Pneumonia (all forms).	Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs.	Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years).	Appendicitis and Typhlitis.	Cirrhosis of Liver.	Nephritis (Acute & Chronic).	Puerperal Sepsis.	Other accidents and diseases of Preg- nancy & Parturition.	Congenital Debility, Malformation, inclg. Premature Birth.	Arterio-Sclerosis.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum.	Violent Deaths, other than Suicides	Suicide.	Other Defined Diseases.	Diseases ill-defined or unknown.	All Causes.		
<i>Boroughs and Urban—</i>																																							
Bury St. Edmund's	16120	24915	4	10	19712	3	15	60	2	1			2	13	2	5	27		18	31	16	10	4		1	3	5	1	1	9	12	1	7	2	26		197		
Glensford	1438	1711	1		3020	8	1	58	8				1	3			3		4	4	5	2	1				1	1	1	1	2		7	30					
Hadleigh	3073	6320	5		3912	6	1	15	8						2		4		1	12					2			1		1	3	1		12	39				
Haverhill	4166	5613	4	1	4310	3	3	53	5				1	3	2		10		7	6	3		1				2		1	1	1	1		6	1	43			
Newmarket	9835	14915	0	13	94	9	3	20	1	4		1		11	1		14		5	11	5	6			2	2	3	2	1	2	2	3	18	1	94				
Sudbury	7008	8612	2	1	10114	4	5	58	1			1	2	5			12		11	12	11	4	1	1	1		2		1	3	2		1	1	29	1	101		
Totals	41640	62014	8	25	50412	1	28	45	1	5		2	5	35	5	7	70		46	77	37	21	6	1	4	7	12	1	4	17	22	5	11	3	98	3	504		
<i>Rural—</i>																																							
Brandon	5803	8815	1	3	58	9	6	68	1				2	6		1	10		4	9	1	2						4		3	3		1	15	1	58			
Clare	7388	10714	4	5	10013	5	2	18	6				1	2	3	1	11		15	13	13	1						4		1	3	3	5	2	25		100		
Osford	10440	17917	1	17	13112	5	10	55	8				4	3	1	1	20		15	24	9	6	1				5			5	6	1	1	28	1	131			
Melford	12330	18114	6	8	13310	7	13	71	8			1	4	8			12		11	22	12	4	4			1	1			10	4	2	2	31	1	133			
Mildenhall	8257	14817	9	9	8310	0	9	60	8		6		3	1	3		7		7	6	8	3		2			4			6	1		3	1	20	83			
Moulton	2152	3415	7		2612	9	3	88	2				2				2		1	6	4							1		1	4	4		2	7	26			
Thedwastre	8460	14417	0	9	10412	2	6	41	6	1			2	5		1	15		10	24		5	1					3		1	4	4	1	1	21	4	104		
Thingoe	13540	23417	2	17	15211	2	12	51	2				3	10	2	3	20		11	22	7	4	1		2			8		9	8		5	2	33	1	152		
Totals	68370	111516	3	68	78711	5	61	54	6	1	6	1	21	35	9	7	97		74	126	54	25	8	2	3	1	26		2	39	29	3	20	7	180	8	787		
Grand Totals	110010	173515	7	93	12911	7	89	51	2	5	1	6	3	26	14	14	167		120	203	91	46	14	3	7	8	38	1	6	56	51	8	31	10	278	11	1291		

* For Birth Rate 16120.

For Death Rate 15940.